

**I. AMENDMENT**

**A. In the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of using an apparatus for card activity-based mortgage crediting, the method including the steps of:

providing a digital computer operably associated with an input device and with an output device;

associating, with said digital computer, data input at said input device, the data representing card activity with further input data representing a mortgage of a property;

determining, with said digital computer, a card activity reward by calculating a function responsive to the card activity of a cardholder;

receiving an allocation instruction from the cardholder, the allocation instruction selected from among a group presented to the cardholder, the group comprising allocating the card activity reward to interest of the mortgage, allocating the card activity reward to principle of the mortgage, and allocating the card activity reward to a combination of the interest and the principle of the mortgage;

crediting, with said digital computer, the card activity reward to a payment of the mortgage according to an the allocation instruction of the cardholder, ~~the allocation instruction selected from among a group presented to the cardholder, the group comprising allocating the card activity reward to interest of the mortgage, allocating the card activity reward to principle of the mortgage, and allocating the card activity reward to a combination of the interest and the principle of the mortgage,~~ wherein if the allocation instruction corresponds during a year to crediting of the reward to the mortgage interest or to crediting of the reward to the combination, crediting the reward so as to produce a mortgage interest tax deduction for the year; and

generating, with said digital computer at said output device, output including the card activity reward being credited according to the allocation instruction of the cardholder.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the allocation instruction is associated, by said digital computer, with a monthly payment of the mortgage.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further including:  
communicating a funds transfer, including an amount determined by the reward, to the cardholder by printing a check including the amount determined by the reward,  
printing a coupon including information used for carrying out payment of the mortgage with the check, and  
combining the check and the coupon with a statement of the card activity in an envelope so as to address the envelope to the cardholder.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including the step of:  
communicating a funds transfer, including an amount determined by the reward, to a mortgage servicer.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the communicating includes an electronic funds transfer, including the amount determined by the reward.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the communicating includes:  
printing a check;

printing a coupon including information used for carrying out payment of the mortgage with the check; and

combining the check and the coupon with a statement of the card activity in an envelope so as to address the envelope to the mortgage servicer.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:  
computing a forecast reflecting the crediting of the card activity for repayment of the mortgage; and

generating, with said digital computer at said output device, output including the forecast.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the allocation instruction is associated, by said digital computer, with an ongoing monthly payment of the mortgage.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including the step of:  
changing from one allocation instruction from the group to an other allocation instruction of the group in response to an instruction from the cardholder received over the Internet.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including the step of:  
changing an allocation of the crediting of the card activity reward between the mortgage and a second mortgage in response to an instruction from the cardholder received over the Internet.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including the step of

generating, with said digital computer at said output device, output comprising the mortgage interest tax deduction computed for the year.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:  
combining the crediting of the card activity reward with a non-cardholder contribution  
and applying the contribution along with the reward according to the allocation instruction of the cardholder.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:  
combining the crediting of the card activity reward with a direct contribution and applying  
the contribution along with the reward according to the allocation instruction of the cardholder.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the crediting is carried out  
by associating a cardholder data file with a mortgage data file.

15. (Currently amended) The method of any one of claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 13, 14,  
~~further including wherein the allocation instruction from the cardholder includes~~ receiving the  
allocation instruction from the cardholder over the Internet.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including:  
allocating a portion of the crediting between the mortgage and a charity; and  
issuing a tax deduction statement responsive to said crediting to the cardholder.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:

computing, with said digital computer, an annual statement of said crediting; and  
communicating the annual statement to the cardholder.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of computing an  
annual statement includes:

computing, with said digital computer, mortgage interest paid by the crediting.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including of:  
communicating a funds transfer, including the amount determined by the reward, in  
carrying out the payment to a mortgage servicer.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the group comprises  
allocating the card activity reward to the mortgage and to a second mortgage.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising  
communicating, from the digital computer to a third party computer, the mortgage data file and  
the cardholder data file from the digital computer to a third party computer.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising  
communicating, from the digital computer to a third party computer, information from the  
mortgage data file and information from the cardholder data file.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the step of:  
communicating a funds transfer to a charity for payment of the mortgage.

24. (Previously presented) The method of any one of claims 21, 22, further including the step of:

receiving an offer from the third party, and communicating the offer to the cardholder.

25. (Previously presented) A method of using an apparatus in carrying out card activity-based mortgage crediting, the method including the steps of:

providing a digital computer operably associated with an input device and an output device;

associating, with said digital computer, data input at said input device, the data representing card activity with further input data representing a mortgage of a property by associating a cardholder data file with a mortgage data file;

determining, with said digital computer, a card activity reward by calculating a function responsive to the card activity of a cardholder;

responding, with said digital computer, to an instruction of the cardholder to credit the card activity reward to a payment of the mortgage, by using the associated data files in allocating the card activity reward to interest of the mortgage, allocating the card activity reward to principle of the mortgage, or allocating the card activity reward to a combination of the interest and the principle, according to the allocation instruction; and

generating, with said digital computer at said output device, output including the card activity reward being credited according to the allocation instruction of the cardholder.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the payment of the mortgage is a monthly payment of the mortgage.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, further including responding, with said digital computer, to another instruction of the cardholder so as to change the allocating.

28. (Currently amended) A method of making a digital electrical computer system programmed to carry out card activity-based mortgage reward crediting, the method including the steps of:

providing a digital electrical computer and data processing system comprising a digital electrical computer electrically connected to an input device for inputting data and to an output device; and

programming the digital electrical computer to associate data input at said input device, the data representing card activity of a cardholder with further input data representing a mortgage of a property, to determine a card activity reward by calculating a function responsive to the card activity, to receive an allocation instruction from the cardholder, the allocation instruction selected from among a group presented to the cardholder, the group comprising allocating the card activity reward to interest of the mortgage, allocating the card activity reward to principle of the mortgage, and allocating the card activity reward to a combination of the interest and the principle of the mortgage, to credit the card activity reward to a monthly payment of the mortgage according to ~~an~~ the allocation instruction of the cardholder, ~~the allocation instruction among a group comprising allocating the card activity reward to interest of the mortgage, allocating the card activity reward to principle of the mortgage, and allocating the card activity reward to a combination of the interest and the principle of the mortgage,~~ wherein if the allocation instruction corresponds during a year to crediting of the reward to the mortgage interest or to crediting the reward to the combination, crediting the reward such that the

cardholder has a mortgage interest tax deduction for the year, and to generate output including the charge card activity reward crediting being credited according to the allocation instruction of the cardholder, to form the digital electrical computer system programmed for carrying out card activity-based mortgage reward crediting.

29. (Previously presented) A method of making a digital electrical computer system programmed to carry out card activity-based mortgage reward crediting, the method including the steps of:

providing a digital electrical computer and data processing system comprising a digital electrical computer electrically connected to an input device for inputting data and to an output device; and programming the digital electrical computer to carry out the operations of:

associating data input at said input device, the data representing card activity with further input data representing a mortgage of a property by associating a cardholder data file with a mortgage data file;

determining a card activity reward by calculating a function responsive to the card activity of a cardholder;

responding to an instruction of the cardholder to credit the card activity reward to a payment of the mortgage, by using the associated data files in allocating the card activity reward to interest of the mortgage, allocating the card activity reward to principle of the mortgage, or allocating the card activity reward to a combination of the interest and the principle, according to the allocation instruction; and

generating, with said digital computer at said output device, output including the card activity reward being credited according to the allocation instruction of the cardholder.



30. (Previously presented) A method of making a digital electrical computer system, the method including the steps of:

providing a digital electrical computer and data processing system comprising a digital electrical computer electrically connected to an input device for inputting data and to an output device; and

programming the digital electrical computer to carry out the operations of:

crediting a reward, determined by calculating a function responsive to card activity, to a monthly mortgage payment, wherein the payment includes interest, in response to receiving an instruction from a cardholder over the Internet;

associating the card activity reward, determined by calculating a function responsive to card activity, with a mortgage interest tax deduction computed for the year;

generating output including the crediting of the reward, determined by calculating a function responsive to card activity, to a monthly mortgage payment; and

generating, with the digital computer at said output device, output including the crediting of the reward, determined by calculating a function responsive to card activity, to a monthly mortgage payment, so as to produce a mortgage interest tax deduction computed for the year.

31. (Previously presented) A method of using an apparatus in carrying out computerized card activity-based mortgage reward crediting, the method including the steps of:

providing a digital computer operably associated with an input device and an output device;

crediting, with the digital computer from input card activity, a reward, determined by calculating a function responsive to card activity, to a monthly mortgage payment, wherein the payment includes interest, in response to receiving an instruction from a cardholder over the

Internet;

associating, with said digital computer, the card activity reward, determined by calculating a function responsive to card activity, with a mortgage so as to produce a mortgage interest tax deduction; and

generating, with the digital computer at said output device, output including the crediting of the reward, determined by calculating a function responsive to card activity, to the monthly mortgage payment.

32. (Currently amended) An apparatus to carry out card activity-based mortgage reward crediting, the apparatus including:

a digital computer and data processing system comprising a digital computer operably associated with an input device for inputting data and to an output device, the digital computer programmed to carry out the steps of:

associating data input at said input device, the data representing card activity with further input data representing a mortgage of a property;

determining a card activity reward by calculating a function responsive to the card activity of a cardholder;

receiving an allocation instruction from the cardholder, the allocation instruction selected from among a group presented to the cardholder, the group comprising allocating the card activity reward to interest of the mortgage, allocating the card activity reward to principle of the mortgage, and allocating the card activity reward to a combination of the interest and the principle of the mortgage;

crediting the card activity reward to a payment of the mortgage according to ~~an~~ the allocation instruction of the cardholder, ~~the allocation instruction among a group comprising allocating the card activity reward to interest of the mortgage, allocating the card activity reward~~

~~to principle of the mortgage, and allocating the card activity reward to a combination of the interest and the principle of the mortgage,~~ wherein if the allocation instruction corresponds during a year to crediting of the reward to the mortgage interest or crediting the reward to the combination, creating a cardholder mortgage interest tax deduction comprised of the reward crediting; and

generating output including the card activity reward being credited according to the allocation instruction of the cardholder.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the allocation instruction is associated, by said digital computer, with a monthly payment of the mortgage.

34. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the associating includes specifying a lender of the mortgage as some of said input data to correspond with a data input screen on a monitor operably associated with said digital computer.

35. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further including a computer corresponding to a mortgage servicer, and wherein the digital computer communicates to cause a funds transfer, including an amount determined by the reward, to the computer corresponding to the mortgage servicer.

36. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further including a computer corresponding to the cardholder, and wherein the allocation instruction is communicated from the computer corresponding to the cardholder to the digital computer.

37. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the steps further

include facilitating, with some of said output, a transfer of funds, including an amount determined by the reward, to the cardholder.

38. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the steps further include

computing a forecast for repayment of the mortgage responsive to the card activity; and wherein:

the step of generating output includes generating output including the forecast.

39. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the steps further include changing from one allocation instruction from the group to an other allocation instruction of the group in response to an instruction from the cardholder received over the Internet.

40. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the steps further include changing an allocation of the crediting of the card activity reward between the mortgage and a second mortgage in response to an instruction from the cardholder received over the Internet.

41. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the steps further include:

associating the card activity reward with a mortgage interest tax deduction computed for the year, and further include

generating at said output device, output including a mortgage interest tax deduction computed for the year.

42. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the steps further include combining the crediting of the card activity reward with a non-cardholder contribution and applying the contribution along with the reward according to the allocation instruction of the cardholder.

43. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the steps further include combining the crediting of the card activity reward with a direct contribution and applying the contribution along with the reward according to the allocation instruction of the cardholder.

44. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the crediting is carried out by associating a cardholder data file with a mortgage data file.

45. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the steps further include:

allocating a portion of the crediting between the mortgage and a charity; and  
issuing a tax deduction statement responsive to said crediting to the cardholder.

46. (Previously presented) The apparatus of 33, wherein the steps further include:  
computing an annual statement of said crediting, including mortgage interest paid by the crediting; and

generating output including the annual statement, including mortgage interest paid by the crediting.

47. (Previously presented) A method of using an apparatus, the method including:

providing a digital electrical computer and data processing system comprising a digital electrical computer electrically connected to an input device for inputting data and to an output device; and

programming the digital electrical computer to carry out the steps of:

associating card activity with a mortgage of a cardholder, the associating comprising associating a cardholder data file with a mortgage data file;

determining a reward by calculating a function responsive to the card activity of a cardholder;

crediting the reward to a monthly payment of the mortgage, said mortgage payment including interest;

generating, for the cardholder, output including the card activity-based mortgage reward crediting; and

a third party computer; wherein

the digital electrical computer communicates information from one of the files to a third party computer, and the third party computer produces an offer to the cardholder.

48. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, further including a computer corresponding to the cardholder, and wherein the offer is communicated to the computer corresponding to the cardholder.

49. (Previously presented) A method of making a digital electrical computer system programmed to carry out card activity-based mortgage reward crediting, the method including the steps of:

providing a digital electrical computer and data processing system comprising a digital

electrical computer electrically connected to an input device for inputting data and to an output device; and

programming the digital electrical computer to carry out the operations of:

crediting a reward, determined by calculating a function responsive to card activity, to a monthly mortgage payment, wherein the payment includes interest, in response to receiving an instruction from a cardholder over the Internet;

associating the card activity reward, determined by calculating a function responsive to card activity, with a mortgage interest tax deduction computed for the year;

generating output including the crediting of the reward, determined by calculating a function responsive to card activity, to a monthly mortgage payment; and

generating, with the digital computer at said output device, output including the crediting of the reward, determined by calculating a function responsive to card activity, to a monthly mortgage payment, with a mortgage interest tax deduction computed for the year.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the associating includes specifying a lender of the mortgage as some of said input data to correspond with a data input screen on a monitor operably associated with said digital computer.

51. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the group comprises allocating the card activity reward to the mortgage and to a second mortgage.

52. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further including a third party computer, and wherein the steps further include communicating, from the digital computer to a third party computer, a mortgage data file corresponding to the mortgage and a cardholder data

file corresponding to the card from the digital computer to the third party computer.

53. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further including a third party computer, and wherein the steps further include communicating, from the digital computer to a third party computer, information from a mortgage data file corresponding to the mortgage and information from a cardholder data file corresponding to the card from the digital computer to the third party computer.

54. (Previously presented) The apparatus of any one of claims 52, 53, wherein the third party computer communicates an offer to the cardholder.

55. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the offer comprises a new mortgage.

56. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the offer comprises insurance.

57. (Previously presented) The method of any one of claims 21, 22, 25, 29, further comprising merging the files.

58. (Previously presented) The apparatus of any one of claims 33, 47, further including a computer corresponding to the cardholder communicating with the digital electrical computer to carry out the crediting.